

free Barbara Williams and requires that she pay still more lawyers' fees, Congress adds to her burden, or as she testified, expands the "cloud" cast over her head.

Mr. President, I submit that holding these non-controversial, practical and entirely beneficial bills hostage to an ideological fight over the Superfund program is not in the public interest. I am very disappointed that for the sixth year in a row, we withheld action on legislation that could provide enormous benefits to the public. This is what gives government a bad name. •

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my disappointment that S. 1802, the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board (Board), failed to pass the Senate. I have spoken out in favor of the Board on many occasions. I want to reemphasize today my commitment to seeing that the Board will be in business for a long time and will be given the resources that it needs to continue its vital work.

The Board is the independent economic regulatory agency that oversees the Nation's rail and surface transportation industries. A healthy transportation system is critical to sustaining a vibrant and growing economy. Under the able and forward-looking leadership of Linda Morgan, the Board's Chairman, who was with us on the Commerce Committee for many years, the Board has worked to ensure that the transportation system is both healthy and responsive. Although it was established to be principally an adjudicatory body, the Board has reached out to the transportation community in an unprecedented way. It has handled the crisis in the West appropriately, letting the private sector work it out where possible, but intervening when necessary. It has initiated proceedings at the request of Senator MCCAIN and Senator HUTCHISON to review the status of access and competition in the railroad industry, and its actions have produced a mix of government action and private-sector solutions. With its staff of 135, it puts out more work than much larger agencies, issuing well-reasoned, thoughtful, and balanced decisions in tough, contentious cases. Just recently, in the Conrail acquisition case, the Board issued one such decision that is good for my State, and for the Nation.

But the Board is stretched thin. It needs to train new people to replace the many employees who are likely to retire soon. And next year, it will continue to expend resources monitoring the implementation of the Conrail acquisition and the rest of the rail network. The Board needs adequate resources to do the hard work that we expect it to do.

Because we need the Board, and because the Board has done a fine job, I

am here today supporting a clean reauthorization bill. I supported the Staggers Act when it was passed, and I think in large part it has been a success.

I know that there is some concern about how our transportation system ought to look, and that there are many important issues on the table right now. Several of those issues are being handled by the Board, in connection with its competition and access hearings. I am confident that the Board will do the right thing with the issues before it.

However, some of the tougher issues that have not yet been resolved—for example, the substantially more open access that some shippers want—are not for the Board. They are for us, and they are real. But the fact that the railroads and those who use the system have a lot of ground to cover on these legislative issues should not hold up the Board's reauthorization. Legislative change is our job. The Board, working with the law we gave it, has done its job. I want to thank the Board in general, and Chairman Morgan in particular, who has my unqualified support, for a job well done. The Nation needs agencies like the Board and public servants like Chairman Morgan. •

TRIBUTE TO FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE PERRY BULLARD

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak of the untimely death of former Michigan State Representative Perry Bullard.

Perry Bullard had a sharp mind, and a tongue to match. He has been called outspoken and abrasive. But what he really was was a passionate legislator. He had a fundamental belief in democracy, and the protection of individual liberties. He served in the Michigan House of Representatives for 20 years, rising to the position of Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. His commitment to the rights of individuals in a democracy and the rights of individuals to access their government are evidenced by the bills he sponsored which have become law. He wrote the Michigan Open Meeting Act, the state Freedom of Information Act, the Whistleblower Protections Act and the Polygraph Protections Act. He was behind the passage of the state's Statutory Will Act, which created a fill-in-the-blank will form that allows people to write their own wills. Equally important to the bills he passed were the bills he stopped. He prevented passage of legislation to loosen requirements for police wiretaps, and to allow for police entering homes without a warrant. Perry Bullard was a liberal, and unabashedly so. He believed that being liberal meant protecting liberty. For him protecting liberty meant putting the interests of the public ahead of those of the state. He will be missed and our hearts go out to his wife, Kelly.

Mr. President I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a passionate legislator, Perry Bullard. •

BILL LANN LEE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to express my deep disappointment and sadness that the Senate has failed to act on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice.

Bill Lann Lee's nomination was sent to the Senate in July, 1997. I had the honor of introducing him to the Judiciary Committee, and I have spoken to the Senate numerous times to urge his confirmation. In my travels throughout my home state of California, I have heard over and over from his supporters, "please make sure Bill Lann Lee gets confirmed."

I cannot explain why the Senate failed to act on this eminently qualified nominee. I can only guess that an eminently qualified candidate fell victim to partisan politics. Mr. Lee has served for 10 months as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights because the Judiciary Committee refused to report the nomination. The Committee did not act because it did not wish the full Senate to vote—because the majority of that Committee knew that Bill Lann Lee would be confirmed if a vote were taken.

If any member of this body does not wish to confirm one of the President's nominees, then he or she should have the courage to vote that nominee down. But that did not happen.

In all this time, one thing is certain; those who know Mr. Lee, and those who are aware of his record, know Mr. Bill Lann Lee is the best person for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. Unfortunately, this nomination has been held back by a few senators who oppose Mr. Lee as head of the Civil Rights Division because, oddly enough, Mr. Lee believes strongly in civil rights.

I want the record to be clear about Bill Lann Lee, his personal history and his professional credentials, both of which make him the perfect candidate to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Bill Lann Lee was born in Harlem, the son of hardworking, patriotic, immigrant parents who came to this country because they believed America was the land of opportunity. His father, William Lee, not only spoke of this, but also showed his son by example, that a penniless immigrant who works hard in this country can make a better life for himself and for his family. Many of us know the senior Lee was a laundryman in New York, who faced daily unspeakable discrimination. What some of my colleagues may not know is that the senior Lee volunteered in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He fought overseas for America and all that America